

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04 SR-02 AID-20 RSR-01 /122 W
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6541

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3369

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PEKING YOUTH CONGRESS

REF: A) HONG KONG 1843; B) HONG KONG 2780

SUMMARY: PEKING MUNICIPALITY MARKED THE FORMATION OF ITS NEW COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE (CYL) COMMITTEE WITH A STRONG CALL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO CONTINUE GOING DOWN TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. THREE TOP PRC LEADERS WERE PRESENT, BUT NOT THE YOUTHFUL YAO WEN- YUAN. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA APRIL 3 REPORTS PEKING' S MUNICIPAL COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE (CYL) CONGRESS AS CONCLUDING THAT DAY. THE NCNA CHINESE LANGUAGE VERSION CALLED IT PEKING' S LARGEST CYL CONGRESS EVER. UNDERLINING THE EVENT' S IMPORTANCE, POLITBURO MEMBER CHANG CH' UN- CH' IAO, ALTERNATE CHI TENG- K' UEI, AND YOUTHFUL RISING STAR WANG HUNG- WEN PARTICIPATED, AS DID ALL OF PEKING MUNICIPALITY' S TOP LEADERSHIP.

2. THE CONGRESS WAS HELD UNDER MAO' S AND THE PARTY' S " WHOLEHEARTED CONCERN," AND MAO WAS QUOTED AT MAJOR POINTS IN THE CYL CONGRESS REPORT. MAO' S WORDS--" IT IS VERY NECESSARY FOR EDUCATED YOUNG PEOPLE TO GO TO THE COUNTRYSIDE"-- SET

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OFF THE CONGRESS' MAIN MESSAGE. THE QUOTATION WAS OMITTED FROM NCNA' S ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION, SUGGESTING THE DOWN-TO- THE- COUNTRYSIDE YOUTH (DCY) PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE CONTROVERSIAL. ANOTHER PASSAGE NOT TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH STRESSED THAT " YOUTH MUST STRUGGLE AGAINST" THE OLD " HABIT OF LOOKING DOWN ON MANUAL LABOR." MUNICIPAL PEKING' S CALL FOR YOUTH TO " DO DOWN" ECHOS SIMILAR EXHORTATIONS FROM BOTH THE PEOPLE' S DAILY EDITORIAL ON YOUTH AND FROM LIAONING' S NEW CYL COMMITTEE (REFTELS). APPARENTLY YOUTH LEAGUE ORGANIZATIONS ARE TO HELP THE PARTY KEEP THE UNPOPULAR DCY PROGRAM MOVING AHEAD.

3. MAO' S 1966 LETTER TO THE RED GUARDS WAS ALSO QUOTED IN THE PEKING CYL REPORT. THE LETTER' S ORIGINAL PURPOSE HAD BEEN TO MODIFY THE INCENDIARY SLOGAN " REBELLION IS JUSTIFIED," WHICH MAO HAD COINED IN 1939. RED GUARDS HAD ENTHUSIASTICALLY ADOPTED THE SLOGAN TO JUSTIFY THEIR CHAOTIC BEHAVIOUR IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION' S EARLY PHASE. IN HIS LETTER-- PROBABLY WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM MODERATES-- MAO THEN RE-PHRASED THE SLOGAN TO READ " TO REBEL AGAINST REACTIONARIES IS JUSTIFIED." ADDING " AGAINST REACTIONARIES" WAS THE KEY TO REINING IN THE RED GUARDS IDEOLOGICALLY, AS SUBSEQUENTLY THEY HAD TO FOLLOW THE CENTER' S GUIDANCE AS TO WHO THE REACTIONARIES WERE. NOW, AT A TIME WHEN THE DCY PROGRAM IS MEETING RESISTANCE, THE REGIME IS CHOOSING TO REPEAT MAO' S EARLIER DISAPPROVAL OF UNSANCTIONED YOUTH REBELLION.

4. GIVEN THE PEKING CYL' S PROJECTION OF A YOUTH ORGANIZATION THAT HELPS THE PARTY SEND YOUTH TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT POLITBURO MEMBER YAO WEN- YUAN DID NOT ATTEND THE CONGRESS. AS ONE WHO ONCE SUPPORTED REBELLIOUS RED GUARDS WHO WERE EVENTUALLY " SENT DOWN," HE MAY DIFFER WITH PRESENT POLICY TOWARD YOUTH. YAO MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO APPEAR FOR THE CONGRESS: THE POLITBURO' S YOUNGEST MEMBER, HE IS FREQUENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH YOUTH AFFAIRS AS A TOP
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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